United Nations

Centre against Apartheid

Information Note SCA/GE/91/4 25 June 1991

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WELCOMES REPEAL BY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OF POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT

The European Council of Ministers, at the end of its 81st European Political Cooperation Ministerial meeting held in Luxembourg from 17 to 18 June 1991, issued the following statement:

"The Community and its member States welcome the repeal of the Population Registration Act two weeks after the repeal of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

"These measures mark the beginning of a new era in South Africa. the Community and its member States pay tribute to all those who have devoted themselves, inside and outside the country, to the abolition of the apartheid system.

"The Community and its member States note, however, that a number of obstacles still delay the opening of substantive negotiations aimed at drawing up a new constitution. They have repeatedly expressed the hope that all obstacles to negotiation, including the detention of political prisoners and the problems impeding the return of exiles, can be removed swiftly. They regret the continuing cost of violence in South Africa and call on all parties to work for tolerance."

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Information Note No. SCA/GE/91/5 25 June 1991

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA ON 16 MAY 1991 DURING ITS 1991-1992 SESSION

Resolution on South Africa

The European Parliament,

Having regard to its previously adopted resolutions on southern Africa of 15 February 1990, 14 June 1990 and 21 February 1991,

Having regard to the Pretoria Minute of 6 August 1990 and the reements reached between the South African Government and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) on 12 February 1991,

Aware, first of all, that positive steps have been taken towards a free and democratic post-apartheid South Africa,

Noting, however, that the South African Government has failed to implement fully the agreements reached with ANC on the removal of obstacles to negotiations by the agreed deadline of 30 April 1991,

Mindful of the decision of over one hundred political prisoners to participate in a hunger strike in order to secure release,

Concerned that violence has escalated to such a level that it may be impossible to create a climate conducive to negotiations and recognizing that the South African Government has the primary responsibility for ending the violence, killings and murders,

Welcoming the fact that the South African Government has tabled legislation to repeal the Land and Group Areas Acts, but regretting that these Acts have not yet been repealed,

Having regard to the decision of the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve of 15 April 1991 in Luxembourg, partially to lift sanctions against South Africa without prior consultation with the European Parliament,

Having regard to the new legal situation arising from the

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refusal of the Danish Parliament to agree to the lifting of sanctions against South Africa,

Whereas the Presidents of the neighbouring countries of South Africa (front-line States) meeting in Lusaka called for the maintaining of sanctions by the European Community against South Africa,

1. Reaffirms its full support for a negotiated political settlement in South Africa on the basis of the United Nations Declaration on South Africa and calls once again on all parties involved in South Africa to achieve by peaceful means a free and democratic post-apartheid South Africa;

2. Recognized that the prospect of a political settlement is now seriously threatened;

3. Calls upon the South African Government to take all necessary and appropriate action to curb the violence and, in particular, to take immediate action to create the conditions conducive to negotiations as set out in the United Nations Declaration on South Africa;

4. Expresses its support for the political prisoners who are on hunger strike and calls for their immediate release;

5. Urges the Council of Ministers to maintain all the existing pressure until the South African Government has removed all obstacles to negotiations;

6. Expresses its opposition to any moves to relax the oil embargo and the arms, military and nuclear sanctions measures which were adopted in September 1985;

7. Reiterates its appeal to the Council of Ministers to consult fully with (the European) Parliament and to take into account, in its policy towards South Africa, the position of ANC and other democratic movements in South Africa, especially in relation to the relaxation of sanctions;

8. Regrets the failure of the Commission (of the European Community) to inform Parliament that it had made legislative proposals to lift certain sanctions and its failure to propose consultation with Parliament in its texts; calls for closer cooperation between Commission and Parliament in any future initiatives relating to South Africa;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of South Africa, the United Nations Secretary-General and the African National Congress of South Africa.